



Press Release

Friday, April 01, 2005

SUBJECT:

Change your Clock,
Change the Battery in
Your Smoke Detector

TO BE RELEASED:

April 1, 2005

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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Every year, approximately 3,000 people lose their lives in home fires, and most of those deaths are among the elderly, the disabled, the low income and the very young. Home fires account for four of every five fire-related deaths and three of every four fire-related injuries. Many of these deaths may have been prevented if a working smoke detector was in place. Please join the Fremont Fire Department and Fire Professionals around this country and remember to invest some time to "Change your Clock- Change the Battery in your Smoke Detector". It is a simple message and an easy task. ***The return on your investment may be a life saved from a fire.***

You can help to prevent needless fire deaths and injuries by having working smoke detectors in your home. In general you should install at least one smoke detector on every level of your home, including the basement, family room and most importantly inside and adjacent to all bedrooms. Be certain that smoke detectors are mounted properly to assure optimal sensitivity and protection. Remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors at least once a year. Replace the old batteries with fresh, high-quality alkaline batteries to keep your smoke detector working year-round. After changing the batteries, be sure to test your smoke detectors monthly. This simple act of owning a properly installed, working smoke detector will cut the risk of dying in a home fire nearly in half.

"Change Your Clock - Change Your Battery" is a national fire safety campaign sponsored by the Fremont Fire Department, the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Energizer batteries. This program urges all Americans to adopt a lifesaving habit of changing smoke detector batteries when they change their clocks. As Fremont residents turn their clocks forward to daylight savings time on **Sunday, April 3, 2005**, Fremont's Fire Chief Bill Reykalin wishes to remind all citizens that it is time to "Change Your Clock - Change Your Battery". Working smoke detectors cut the risk of dying in a home fire by providing early warning and critical extra seconds to escape.

The Fremont Fire Department urges all residents to install smoke detectors if they do not have one. If you own one or more smoke detectors the Fremont Fire Department urges all residents to check and change their smoke detector batteries. They also encourage other fire safety precautions such as: plan and practice two home escape plans, practice good housekeeping, and keep matches and lighters away from children.

REMEMBER

SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES

Fire Chief Reykalin said, "When a fire occurs, seconds count. Working smoke detectors can provide the early warning needed for a family to escape a fire safely. To do the job effectively, a battery-operated smoke detector needs to be checked monthly and the battery changed yearly. Changing your smoke detector's batteries when turning back your clock provides an easy reminder to ensure that these life saving devices will work when needed." Help your smoke detector remain sensitive and ready to protect you by gently using a vacuum cleaner once a month to remove dust and cobwebs. If your smoke detectors have been accidentally painted or contaminated, replacement may be necessary.

Smoke Detector Program: The Fremont Fire Department recognizes that the best way to fight a fire is to prevent it. We are fortunate to have a team of volunteers who will install one free standard smoke detector in the homes of City of Fremont residents who are senior citizens, physically handicapped, and low-income families (at-risk individuals). Many of the smoke detectors are donated by local businesses and organizations. In addition to installing the smoke detectors, the volunteers will return to the homes every 6 months to replace the batteries should the resident call to request that service. For more information, call 510-494-4246.

For more information about fire safety and developing a home escape plan, contact the Fremont Fire Department, Fire Prevention Division, 3300 Capital Avenue, Fremont, CA 94538 at 494-4200 or visit your nearest fire station.

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